United Nations E/AC.51/2016/L.4/Add.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
21 June 2016

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-sixth session
31 May-24 June 2016
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019

(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 22
Palestine refugees

1. At its 19th meeting, on 10 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 22)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the important work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in alleviating the plight of the Palestine refugees, in particular women and children, and for the Agency's staff who carried out their work under difficult financial, political and economic conditions.

4. Questions were raised concerning the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of UNRWA for the year ended 31 December 2014 (A/70/5/Add.4 and Corr.1) and three of the issues raised therein:

Please recycle

the lack of adequate education facilities for children with special needs, the inadequacy of health facilities for the general population and expired stocks of medicines. Information was sought on the strategy in place to rectify the issues cited by the Board, how the strategic framework addressed the identified weaknesses and what the Agency was specifically doing to improve its management of supplies.

5. Clarification was sought on whether the financial situation of UNRWA, including the chronic instability of financial resources, had had an impact on the goals set in the programme.

6. Note was taken of the change in the names of the various subprogrammes compared with the previous period and clarification was sought as to the underlying reasons therefor.

7. Under subprogramme 1, Palestine refugee rights under international law are protected and promoted, information was sought on the indicators of achievement, in particular on the experience of the Agency in the previous biennium. Furthermore, the view was expressed that the indicators were rather specific in the light of the broad scope of the subprogramme, and questions were raised as to whether there was a discrepancy between the two. Clarifications were sought on the use of the term "at-risk groups" in paragraph 22.9 (b) and what could be done to overcome the challenges facing such groups.

8. With regard to subprogramme 2, Palestine refugee health is protected and disease burden is reduced, delegations emphasized the importance of mental health care, in particular of children who were exposed to recurring situations of violence. Information was sought on how the Agency was addressing that particular need, especially in the aftermath of the situation in Gaza in 2014. Clarification was requested on the meaning of the term "behavioural change" in paragraph 22.10 (c).

9. With regard to indicators of achievement (a) (i) and (iii) under subprogramme 2, views were expressed that they could reflect either positive or negative developments, depending on the circumstances. For example, an increase in the number of patients per doctor could be due to a shortage of doctors and medicine.

10. In relation to subprogramme 3, School-age children complete quality, equitable and inclusive basic education, information was sought on how UNRWA was addressing the education needs of children in the Syrian Arab Republic or those who had had to flee that country. As to the strategy, clarification was requested as to why paragraph 22.11 (b) had been restricted to Lebanon.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 22.11 (b)

Delete the words "in Lebanon".